

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Services Division

Committee on China

Committee Minutes - 161st Meeting - 11 February 1958

D/S Representatives: Messrs. [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

Guests: [REDACTED]

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The Committee discussed the following:

1. The Communist Chinese Ministry of Railroads has announced that it will produce one million steel-reinforced concrete ties in 1958 for use in railroad construction.

Comment: The large-scale introduction of reinforced concrete ties during 1958 would help the lumber shortage currently plaguing the Chinese. In 1957 more than 10 million ties were used in all types of railroad construction--taking more than 10 percent of the national production of lumber. Figuring 1,800 ties to a kilometer of railroad construction, one million ties will suffice for more than 550 km of track and will save about 165,000 cubic meters of lumber. A statement by the Chinese, "There are still some operational questions preventing the introduction of reinforced concrete ties on the new railroad lines", indicates that experimentation is continuing on such ties. Meantime, they will probably not be used on other than spur, branch, and station lines. Poor Soviet performance in 1956 and 1957 in the production of such ties suggests that the Chinese too will have difficulty in producing the planned one million reinforced concrete ties in 1958, their first year of production. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1A9a [REDACTED] CST, x 4597.

2. A Soviet power expert, A. Markin, has posed some grandiose ideas on international rail and power networks to NCRA. A super-gauge railway running from Communist China in the east to the USSR and Europe in the west and a further link across the Bering Strait to the North American continent was mentioned. An integrated power network for Europe and Asia was also suggested.

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25X1A9a Comment: Even a minimal appraisal of the suggestion would mark it as long range and lofty. OFF USE
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25X1X7 3. [REDACTED], discussed Communist China's development of port facilities particularly at Fort Bayard.

Note: "Perspective of Burma," a 72 page supplement in the Atlantic Monthly, Vol. 201, No. 2, February 1958, is worthy of perusal.

Agenda: 18 February - (a) Discussion of the ERA fiscal 1959 research program,

(b) Current items.

Room 1006 M at 1400.

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RR/S/TF: [REDACTED], cw/2749 (12 Feb 58)

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